

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /083 W  
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R 071002Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0140

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, BG, CH  
SUBJ: GENERAL ZIA'S TRIP TO PEKING

REF: A) 76 DACCA 6217 B) HONG KONG 0233

1. GENERAL ZIA RECEIVED A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME UPON HIS RETURN TO DACCA JANUARY 6 FROM HIS FOUR-DAY GOODWILL TRIP TO CHINA. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, GENERAL ZIA, IN AN EXPANSIVE AND ELATED MOOD, DECLARED THAT HIS VISIT HAD "THROWN OPEN A NEW VISTA IN BANGLADESH'S RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD OUTSIDE" AND "ENHANCED THE CAUSE OF THE THIRD WORLD." HE EXPRESSED TREMENDOUS GRATITUDE FOR HIS WARM RECEPTION IN PEKING AND NOTED PARTICULARLY HOW "GRACIOUS" IT HAD BEEN OF CHAIRMAN HAU KUO-FENG TO COME PERSONALLY TO THE PEKING AIRPORT. AFTER HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND ON HIS WAY FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE NEARBY CONTONMENT, ZIA, OBVIOUSLY RELISHING HIS TRIUMPHAL RETURN, LEFT HIS JEEP AND PLUNGED  
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INTO THE CROWS, SHAKING HANDS AND RECEIVING THE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE PEOPLE LINING THE DRIVE.

2. THE AIRPORT RECEPTION, ORGANIZED LIKE THE ONE IN PEKING TO GIVE ZIA HEAD OF STATE HONORS (TO WHICH HE IS TECHNICALLY NOT ENTITLED), FOLLOWED A PATTERN EVIDENT IN THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY GIVEN HIM PERSONALLY

BY THE BANGLADESH PRESS THROUGHOUT THE VISIT: THE CHINA TRIP WAS ZIA'S OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH HIS IMAGE AS THE UNDISPUTED AND ACCLAIMED LEADER OF HIS COUNTRY AND ONE WHO IS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY A MAJOR FOREIGN POWER. SO MUCH PUBLICITY HAD NOT BEEN ACCORDED A BANGLADESH LEADER SINCE THE DAYS OF MUJIB.

3. ZIA APPARENTLY HAD GOOD REASON FOR SATISFACTION WITH HIS FOUR-DAY TRIP. IN ADDITION TO TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, WHICH EASILY COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITHOUT AN ELABORATE TRIP, THE BDG RECEIVED SUPPORT IN ITS CONTINUING DISPUTES WITH INDIA. THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JOINTLY FROM DACCA AND PEKING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT CONTAINED ASSURANCES TO BANGLADESH WHICH THE BDG NO DOUBT WILL SEE AS THE MAJOR DIPLOMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE TRIP. THE PRC NOTED "WITH JOY" THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED BY BANGLADESH "IN OPPOSING INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE, DEFENDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND DEVELOPING AND NATIONAL ECONOMY." THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ALSO REITERATED ITS "FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF BANGLADESH IN THIS REGARD."

4. VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S POINTED AND PUBLIC EXPRESSION (REF B) OF "HIGHEST ADMIRATION" FOR THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH IN THEIR UNREMITTING STRUGGLE AGAINST "HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM" (READ INDIA) WAS ALSO WHAT ZIA HAD HOPED TO HEAR IN PEKING. LI'S ADDITIONAL SWIPE AT THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR ATTEMPTS TO "CONTROL AND ENSLAVE THE SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES" MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN WELCOMED, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REMARKS EARLIER TO THE ADCM (REF A) CONCERNING SOVIET INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL BANGLADESH AFFAIRS.

5. IN ADDITION TO GAINING PUBLIC CHINESE SUPPORT AGAINST INDIA, THE BDG HOPED TO OBTAIN SOME MILITARY ASSISTANCE INCLUDING THE REOPENING OF THE JOYDEVPUR ORDNANCE PLANT. NO MENTION WAS MADE IN THE COMMUNIQUE, BUT ASSISTANCE ON JOYDEVPUR AT A MINIMUM SEEMS LIKELY.

6. COMMENT: ZIA'S TRIP HAS WELL SERVED ONE OF THE PURPOSES IT WAS INTENDED TO MEET: THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION OF ZIA AS A MAJOR LEADER WITH WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AT HOME AND RECOGNITION ABROAD. WE HAVE HEARD NO CRITICISM OF THE TRIP, NOT EVEN FROM THOSE MODERATES WHO USUALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SO-CALLED "PRO-CHINESE" DRIFT OF THE BDG. ONE LEADING JOURNALIST, KNOWN FOR HIS ANTIPATHY TOWARD CHINA, TOLD POLOFF THAT THE CHINA TRIP WAS A GOOD THING BECAUSE NOW BANGLADESH HAD "ONE

GOOD FRIEND IN ITS DISPUTE WITH INDIA." THIS POINTS TO  
THE SECOND ACCOMPLISHMENT: THE CLEAR VERBAL SYMPATHY OF  
CHINA TO BANGLADESH IN ITS DISPUTES WITH INDIA. IF  
SOME MILITARY COOPERATION COMES ALONG AS HAS THE ECONOMIC  
AND TRADE AGREEMENTS THIS WILL BE THE ICING ON THE CAKE.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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